



Kákya Táymut

KUK-yuh TIE-moot, Umatilla Indian Translation: *Bird News*

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What About Bird Lists? Bird Counts? Numbers?

Google 'Bird Lists' or 'Bird Counts'. Up come pages and pages of entries from all over the world of people and places who are recording numbers of species; where and when seen. Why all this fuss about keeping track of the bird world? On the different web sites you'll find answers like these:

1) Increases our understanding of birds and our appreciation of the uniqueness of our planet's biodiversity. 2) Provides data to share with the global community of educators, land managers, ornithologists and conservation biologists. 3) Helps guide conservation action including protection of birds and habitat. 4) Gives a picture of how the continents' bird populations have changed over the years. 5) Identifies potential endangered or threatened species. 6) Establishes trends of bird movement and migration. And more!

Pendleton Bird Club is right in there doing its part to contribute to world bird knowledge through its lists and bird counting activities. Go to www.pendletonbirders.org and find the numbers for species sighted in Umatilla County beginning in 2003 begun by Aaron Skirvin, Dave Herr, and Craig Corder. This County Year Report helps to establish trends of when birds are in our area. The website, published by Jack Simons, also includes lists for popular local habitats, such as Cold Springs Wildlife Refuge, McNary Wildlife Nature Area, McKay Creek National Wildlife Refuge, Mission Ponds, Pendleton Community Park, and Pendleton River Parkway.

A quick review of the statistics shows that in 2004 there were sightings of 259 species, the most number of species recorded since the Pendleton Bird Club began keeping records in 2003. This year, 249

species have been recorded to date in 2009. Aaron Skirvin reports that in the two months remaining for this year's count there is the likely potential to see and add to the list the Pacific Loon (end of October to mid November below McNary Dam) and the Northern Saw-Whet Owl (lower elevation forests in the mountains and foothills; possibly in urban areas).

Other birds that are known from past records to be present that may yet be seen this year are: Mountain Quail (rare, but resident, species in the extreme southern part of Umatilla County, especially along the North Fork John Day river), White-winged Scoter (Columbia River), American Bittern (marshes in the NW part of the county), Great Gray Owl (Blue Mountain forests between Battle Mountain and Meacham), Swamp Sparrow (McNary Wildlife Nature Area), and White-throated Sparrow (brushy areas in the lower elevations of the county).

Aaron adds that there are a number of birds that may be present but likely not seen which include the Trumpeter Swan, Harlequin Duck, Long-tailed Duck, Anna's Hummingbird, Glaucous Gull, Snow Bunting and Common Redpoll. Because we keep lists and numbers we have a pretty good idea of what we might see. So, be on the lookout for any of these species not yet seen this year and report them to Dave Herr or Aaron Skirvin for inclusion in this year's records.

In addition to the County and Habitat Lists, the Pendleton Bird Club participates in the Big Sit Bird Count that is detailed on page 3 of this newsletter.

On January 2, 2010, the club will be participating in the Audubon Society's 110th annual Christmas Bird



Count. The Christmas Bird Count (CBC) is a census of birds in the Western Hemisphere, performed annually in the early Northern-hemisphere winter by volunteer birders. The purpose is to provide population data for use in science, especially conservation biology, though many people participate for recreation. The CBC is one of many larger global bird counts now being conducted around our planet. This is an opportunity for Pendleton Bird Club members to participate as "citizen scientists" this winter.

And then there are the personal bird lists which range from the backyard lists, the vacation lists, to annual lists and whatever one invents as needing to be listed. For some this is quantifiable recreation, for others it is scientific data collection, and for others it becomes competitive obsession. The Big Listers are those who have seen 7,000 or more of the 9,600 some birds of the world. They are in a special group of perhaps less than 20 individuals according to Dan Koeppel in his book "*To See Every Bird on Earth*".

For many of us with aging brains, listing is simply a way to keep track of what we have seen and where. We enjoy being out in nature and the good people we join as we search out our favorite species or a new one that comes into our view. Through the Pendleton Bird Club we are finding that as lists and bird counts become scientific data our world is changing. Global warming is happening and perhaps we can have an impact.

To learn more about listing and counting just Google search 'Bird Lists' or 'Bird Counts'.

Submitted by Barbara Clark

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., November 12, 2009

**Steens Mt. to Malheur:
More than a Mountain and a
Marsh**

**Presented by Jack Simons and June
Whitten**

**Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton**

Bird Club Meeting

7:00 p.m., December 10, 2009

**ANNUAL FUND RAISER
AND
NEWSLETTER
SURVEY & DISCUSSION**

**Pendleton First Christian Church
North Main St., Pendleton**

Christmas Bird Count

January 2, 2010

**We need your help to count birds on
the 110th Christmas Bird Count.**

**For more information, contact
Aaron Skirvin umatbirder@yahoo.com
or 541-276-1948**

Hawk Count with Blue Mountain Audubon

By Aaron Skirvin

Our friends at the Blue Mountain Chapter of the National Audubon Society in Walla Walla, WA, sponsored a Hawk Watch near Tollgate on September 19. A Hawk Watch is a count of migrating raptors seen from a fixed point along a known or suspected hawk migration route. These watches mostly take place during fall migration at a vantage point along a high-elevation ridgetop or mountain top. Compared to most birding activities, this is a relatively passive event, much like a Bit Sit, where observers stay at one point and let the birds come to them.

Ginger Shoemake organized the Hawk Watch and invited Pendleton Bird Club members to participate. The observation point was at a scenic pullout along the Skyline Road (US Forest Service Road #64) on the SE side of Bald Mountain, which overlooks the Lookingglass Creek Canyon. This location is very



close to the Umatilla-Union county line at the summit of the Blue Mountains.

We had a good turnout for the watch: 13 Blue Mountain Audubon members, 4 Pendleton Bird Club members, and 2 Lower Columbia Audubon members from the Tri-Cities. The watch started about 9:30 a.m. and lasted a little less than four hours. Ginger reported in the *Magpiper* (Blue Mt. Audubon's newsletter) that this "...was the first time we have tried a hawk watch, and I was pleasantly surprised with the results..." The morning's hawk count totaled **40 raptors: American Kestrel – 3, Sharp-shinned Hawk – 4, Cooper's Hawk – 8, Accipiter species – 1, Red-tailed Hawk – 12, Buteo species – 4, and Turkey Vulture – 8.**

In addition to the raptors, there was another exciting find, a species that many of us had not seen (or rarely seen) before: a male **mountain goat** on the ridge across Lookingglass Creek! None of the hawk watchers was aware that goats lived in this area. To report the mountain goat sighting and curious about where the billy may have come from, Dave Herr checked with the US Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). He discovered the mountain goat was likely one of 18 that ODFW had trapped on July 30, 2009, in the Elkhorn Mountains near Baker City and released in the Wenaha Canyon area about 20 miles NE of the Hawk Watch site.

Bird Club members who helped count hawks on September 19 were June Whitten, Marilyn Cripe, Aaron Skirvin, and Dave Herr.

Big Sit Brings Big Results

By June Whitten & Dave Herr

The Big Sit was held on October 11, 2009 with the Pendleton Bird Club sponsoring three circles: Jack Simons and Jeanne Jensen counted birds at Mission Ponds; Dave Herr, June and Duane Whitten counted at Circle 1 on the Columbia River; and Aaron Skirvin, Nancy Brown, Neal Hinds, and Katrina Susi kept score at Cold Springs NWR.

Jack Simons and Jeanne Jensen had a slight mix-up on the site of the sit—ending up on the south end of Mission Pond instead of a view of both the ponds and the Umatilla River. Nevertheless, quite a few ducks and geese were reported there. Species sighted were mostly waterfowl, including Mallard, American

Wigeon, Ring-necked Duck, Canada Goose, Belted Kingfisher and White-crowned Sparrow.

As it turned out, the weather was pretty bad on the Columbia River. So windy and cold, in fact, that Dave, June and Duane gave up that circle and joined the group at Cold Springs, where it was a beautiful, sunny day with practically no wind! We recorded a scant 11 species on the Columbia River, including Clark's, Western, and Pied-billed Grebes, Yellow-rumped Warbler, Song Sparrow, and Bufflehead before succumbing to the cold wind.

Birding was not only more pleasant temperature-wise at Cold Springs, but also involved a nice variety of species. The array of shorebirds included numerous Killdeer; Black-bellied, American Golden and Pacific-Golden Plovers; Lesser Yellowlegs; Western, Least, Bairds, and Pectoral Sandpipers; and Long-billed Dowitchers. On and near the water were American White Pelicans, Great Blue Herons, a Great Egret, great numbers of Canada Geese, Cackling Geese, and a few Greater White-fronted Geese. The following ducks also made an appearance: Mallard, Northern Shoveler, American Wigeon, Gadwall, Northern Pintail, Green-winged Teal, and Ruddy Duck.



Northern Harriers and Red-tailed Hawks made periodic sweeps near the reservoir and stayed for lunch on a dead goose across the reservoir. A Peregrine Falcon made a pass nearly over the Big Sit site and temporarily scattered shorebirds, ducks, or any other species that spotted that awesome hunter.

The observers recorded a total of 37 species at Cold Springs NWR, a very good tally for a fall day. The circle was closed down about 1:30 p.m. as it didn't seem very likely any new species would appear.



Thanks to everyone who participated in the Big Sit. The species counts have been sent to the sponsoring group, Bird-watcher's Digest, in hopes that one of our birds might be drawn as the Golden Bird.

Are We Ready to Live with Condors?

By Barbara Clark

The October 8th Bird Club Meeting attendees were challenged by speaker David Moen with this question: "Are we ready to live with Condors?" Condors, the giants of the bird world, once flew above the Columbia River and in other places in Oregon. Now they are flying once again in several places in California after hovering on the brink of extinction. David, a species recovery biologist at the Oregon Zoo, is working with several Condors in an enclosed facility near Portland. As David traced the demise of Condors in Oregon and their environmental needs, one has to ponder whether our current state of the environment could sustain life as is required by Condors. David's presentation wove together the Condor story from the perspectives of anthropology, history, and biology. His power point photographs provided those pictures "worth a thousand words".

Bird of the Month-Turkey Vulture

(*Cathartes aura*)

Compiled by June Whitten

A close-up view of a Turkey Vulture does not reveal a handsome or gorgeous bird. The red skin of the face and the rather large bill are beneficial to the vulture's eating habits, but do not add any beauty. A soaring Turkey Vulture is another matter. In flight, the vulture has the grace of a hawk and is an effortless flier, seldom flapping its wings, but soaring on thermals wherever it wishes to go.

Soaring is also advantageous to the Turkey Vulture's eating habits as it relies on a keen sense of smell to find the carrion necessary to stay alive. The Turkey Vulture is a scavenger and feeds almost exclusively on carrion. It uses both its keen sense of vision and sense of smell, flying low enough to detect the gasses produced by the beginnings of decay in dead animals. This keen sense of smell is uncommon in the avian world and allows the Turkey Vulture to detect odors

and find carrion below the forest canopy. It feeds on carrion from small mammals to large grazers, preferring those recently dead, and avoiding carcasses that have reached the point of putrefaction. The vultures play an important role in the ecosystem: cleaning up recently dead animals, which would otherwise leave carrion as a breeding ground for disease.

The Turkey Vulture does not kill its own prey, lacking the talons and strong bill to do the job. It has been wrongly accused of killing calves and lambs as it is often seen feeding on these recently killed animals. It often travels with bad company, the Black Vulture, who does kill baby livestock. In their range, Black Vultures and other vulture species, most of them lacking the keen sense of smell, follow the Turkey Vulture to carrion. In Central and South America, the King Vulture often follows the Turkey Vulture to the prey and makes the first cut into the skin of the dead animal allowing the Turkey Vulture access to the food.



The breeding season commences in March or April and may continue into June. Courtship ritual is composed of several individuals gathering in a circle, where they perform hopping movements around the perimeter of the circle with wings partially spread. Eggs are generally laid in the nesting site, on the bare surface of a crevice, burrow, hollow tree, cliff, or cave. Generally 2 cream-colored eggs, with brown or lavender spots, are laid. Both parents incubate the eggs for 30 to 40 days and then feed the babies regurgitated food for another 10 to 11 weeks. When adults are threatened near the nest, they may flee or they may regurgitate on the intruder or feign death. The family groups remain together until fall.

The Turkey Vulture has few natural predators, possibly occasionally falling prey to Bald or Golden



Eagles and Great Horned Owls. Its primary form of defense is regurgitating semi-digested meat, a foul-smelling substance, which deters most creatures intent on raiding a vulture nest or capturing a young vulture. The regurgitated meat not only is foul-smelling, but carries a powerful sting if it hits the predator in the face.

Another not so kosher habit the Turkey Vulture practices is defecating on its own legs, using the evaporation of the water in the feces or urine to cool itself, a process known as urohydrolysis. It cools the blood vessels in the unfeathered tarsi and feet, and causes white uric acid to streak the legs.

Turkey Vultures are wide-spread in North, Central, and South America. They do migrate from their summer range in much of the United States to only southern states and farther south in winter. The Turkey Vulture was named due to its resemblance to the plumage of the Wild Turkey. Vulture is derived from the Latin vultures, meaning "tearer," in reference to its eating habits. The Turkey Vulture has a wing span of 67 to 72 inches and may weigh from 2 to 5 pounds. Its global population is estimated to be 4.5 million individuals.

A Turkey Vulture lacks a syrinx, the vocal organ of birds. Therefore, its only vocalizations are grunts or low hisses.

While Turkey Vultures are often seen in Umatilla County along the Umatilla River or McKay Creek, near Mission, or especially Ukiah, their nesting spots have yet to be located. Perhaps this is due to their nasty habit of regurgitating on aggressors, or maybe they just keep the nest site well hidden. Either way, they probably nest in Umatilla County but the exact locations remain to be found.

The Turkey Vulture received special legal protections under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 in the United States, by the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds in Canada, and the Convention for the Protection of Migratory Birds and Game Mammals in Mexico. In the United States, it is illegal to take, kill, or possess Turkey Vultures, and violation of the law is punishable by a fine of up to \$15,000 and imprisonment of up to six months. It is, of course, legal for facilities like Blue Mountain Wildlife to keep injured or imprinted Turkey

Vultures, which could not survive in the wild. Much of the information for this article was taken from http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Turkey_Vulture

Birding in the Pacific Northwest: Sauvie Island (near Portland, Oregon)

By Barbara Clark

When visiting Portland and in need of a birding break head for Sauvie Island, which is located on the Northwest edge of the Portland metro area follow Highway 30 west and cross the Sauvie Island Bridge. Daily public transportation from Portland is also available on the regional Tri-met bus line. Bikes can then be rented on the Island. Within half an hour from the heart of the city you can be using your binoculars and spotting scopes.

Sauvie Island, at the confluence of the Willamette and Columbia Rivers, attracts a high number of raptors in the winter: Bald Eagles, Red-tailed Hawks, Merlins, Rough-legged Hawks, Cooper's and Sharp-shinned Hawks. Half the island is preserved as a wildlife area and the other 12,000 acres support fertile farmland and orchards. Sandhill Cranes stop in the fall on their way to California and a few may remain all winter. They stop again on their journey north beginning in mid-February until early April when they migrate north to the Arctic. Winter flocks of sparrows often include White-throated Sparrows among the more common White-crowned, Golden-crowned, Fox, Lincoln's, Swamp, and Song Sparrows. The rare Harris's Sparrow is sometimes found at the entrance to Oak Island. Thousands of Canada Geese, Mallards, Northern Pintails and American Wigeons, along with hundreds of Snow Geese and some two dozen other species of waterfowl also use the island.

The refuge is generally closed from December to March to protect wintering waterfowl. None-the-less, many species can be seen from the public roads. Late spring and early summer offer Virginia and Sora Rails, Green-winged and Cinnamon teals, Common Yellowthroats, and Marsh Wrens. Pileated Woodpeckers, Brown Creepers and Willow flycatchers nest on the island. In all, Sauvie Island is host to more than 250 species of birds throughout the year. You may be the lucky birder who visits Sauvie Island and spots a new species to add to your life list.



September-October Bird Sightings

Compiled by Dave Herr

Fall is here and there has been lots of bird activity during this report period. **White-crowned Sparrows** have arrived and **Dark-eyed Juncos** are starting to show up at bird feeders. Aaron Skirvin (Aaron) reported the season's first **Rough-legged Hawk** on October 10, and since then I've (Dave Herr) noticed several along various rural roads in the county. The **Yellow-rumped Warbler** migration peaked around the first of October and for several weeks it seemed like you could find **Yellow-rumped Warblers** in every tree. Another sign of fall, on September 18, Aaron counted over **700 Sandhill Cranes** in fields at the junctions of East and North Loop roads near Cold Springs NWR.

Cold Springs National Wildlife Refuge

Although shorebirding at McKay Reservoir (which closed to public access on September 30) has been slow this year, birding at Cold Springs Reservoir has been good all fall. September 18, Aaron estimated there were 600 shorebirds at Cold Spring including several **Pectoral Sandpipers**, at least **3 Sanderlings** and many **Western Sandpipers**. September 20, Aaron reported finding most of the shorebirds were on the north side of the Reservoir, but was able to identify 4 **Baird's** and one **Western Sandpiper**. More interesting was the fact he found **NO Killdeer**, which is very unusual at Cold Springs. Birding the area on September 26, Neal Hinds found 28 **Greater White-fronted Geese**, about a dozen **Golden-crowned Sparrows**, one immature **Black-bellied Plover** and over 100 **American Pipits**. October 5, Aaron estimated 700-800 shorebirds at the reservoir, but of special interest were **12 Snow Geese**.

October 7, I found **21 Black-bellied Plovers** along with the other expected shorebirds. October 10, Aaron estimated there were over **1000 shorebirds** at Cold Springs. Although the vast majority were Killdeer, his count also included **3 American Golden-Plovers**. Cold Springs was one of the 3 areas where the Pendleton Bird Club conducted a "Big Sit." Check June Whitten's article in this newsletter for specific "Big Sit" details.

I checked Cold Springs on October 16. The weather was warm and among many **Killdeer**, I found one **Lesser Yellowlegs**, **Long-billed Dowitchers**, **Pectoral Sandpipers**, several **Least**, one **Baird's** and one **Western Sandpiper**. There was also one **Golden-Plover**; however, I was unable to determine

if it was a Pacific or American. Birding at Cold Springs the same day, Karen and Jason Baxter reported finding a **Mountain Bluebird**. This is the first reported sighting of this species on the Refuge and the 201st species for the Refuge checklist. Later in the afternoon Aaron checked the area and among the more common species found one **Dunlin**, **5 Tundra Swans**, **2 Greater Yellowlegs**, **5 Lesser Yellowlegs**, **20 Least Sandpipers** as well as many **Long-billed Dowitchers** and **Killdeer**.

I made a short visit to Cold Springs on October 19 and noted lots of ducks and geese on the north side of the reservoir where entry is not permitted. With the exception of a few **Killdeer**, there were no other shorebirds. If you are planning a trip to Cold Springs remember the duck hunting season is now open on the Refuge and will be until early February. Hunting is permitted on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.

Other Local Birding

On September 19, The Blue Mountain Audubon Chapter hosted a Hawk Watch at Bald Mountain, which is located on the Umatilla National Forest. Several Pendleton Bird Club members participated, and Aaron reports the results of the hawk count in this newsletter.

Driving back from the Bald Mountain Hawk Watch, Mike and MerryLynn Denny had a sub-adult **Goshawk** fly in front of their car, adding another new species to the Umatilla County year list. Earlier in the day at Langdon Lake, Aaron, June, and Marilyn Cripe spotted 10 **Common Goldeneyes**, one **American Coot**, one adult **California Gull**, an immature **Red-naped Sapsucker**, over 20 **Red Crossbills** and numerous **Pine Siskins**. On their way back to Pendleton from the Hawk Watch, Aaron, June, and Marilyn found a late **Gray Catbird** and **House Wren** in a brush patch along Eagle Creek Road about 5 miles SE of Athena.

September 20, Aaron, Bruce Mayfield, Katrina Susi and June Whitten checked the Juniper Canyon, Stateline Windfarm, Walla Walla River delta, Warehouse Beach and Cold Springs areas. Some of their best finds in Umatilla County included 2 **juvenile Burrowing Owls** at the burrow along Highway 37 just north of Pendleton and a **Golden Eagle** along South Juniper Canyon Road. They counted over 25 **Red-tailed Hawks** scattered along their route.



Dolly Robison reports she has been seeing **Eurasian Collared-Doves** throughout her travels in Eastern Oregon, including several pairs around the Hermiston area.

On September 25, an injured **GREEN HERON** was found near Hermiston, and was received at Blue Mountain Wildlife for rehabilitation. This is the second report of a **GREEN HERON** in Umatilla County this year.

Mike and MerryLynn Denny added yet another species to the Umatilla County year list when they found a **Red-breasted Merganser** in the pond at Hat Rock State Park on September 26. Connie Betts had the season's first **Dark-eyed Junco** at her birdbath in her SW Pendleton yard on September 28 and the following day, 2 **Spotted Towhees**. At the Pendleton Community Park September 30, Connie and Russ Betts found several flocks of **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, a **White-crowned Sparrow**, 2 **Morning Doves**, a **California Quail**, one **Great Blue Heron** and 2 **American Crows**. A **Yellow-shafted Flicker** (the eastern race of the **Northern Flicker**) briefly visited June and Duane Whitten's feeder in SW Pendleton on September 28. June reports they had a similar bird in their yard the previous year.

October 1, Katrina Susi, Angela Baylink and Bruce Mayfield spotted 2 juvenile **Burrowing Owls** at the burrow along Highway 37 just north of Pendleton. To date, no one has reported seeing an adult at the site. October 2, Barbara Clark reported a heavy movement of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** through her neighborhood near McKay Dam. Early October is the peak of the Yellow-rump migration in our area, and others have reported seeing flocks of **Yellow-rumped Warblers** throughout the area. Most **Yellow-rumps** have now left the area.

Checking along the Umatilla River near his home located between Pendleton and Mission on October 4, Jack Simons found several swallows and one **Vaux's Swift**. Aaron notes **Vaux's Swifts** usually leave our area in September and an October sighting is rare. Driving up to Deadman Pass Rest Area on old Highway 30 on the same day, Jack found 4 **Red-tailed Hawks**, 3 **Northern Harriers**, 2 **Kestrels**, one **Prairie Falcon** and a total of 25 **Western Bluebirds**. Also on the 4th, Aaron and Bruce Mayfield birded in northern Umatilla County and southern Walla Walla County. Along the route they found 2 female **Western Bluebirds**, an estimated 100 **Savannah Sparrows**, **White-crowned Sparrows**, a **Lincoln's**

Sparrow, a **Ruby-crowned Kinglet**, a few **Yellow-rumped Warblers**, a late **Swainson's Hawk** and a **Sharp-shinned Hawk** eating a songbird.

Katrina Susi reported she had been hearing high-pitched calls from birds in the top of spruce trees in her Pendleton North Hill yard. She was finally able to get a good look and identified the birds as **Golden-crowned Kinglets**. She estimated there were at least 15 birds in the flock. October 8, Connie Betts reported seeing another species with a high-pitched call. She found a number of **Cedar Waxwings** in a juniper tree in her SW Pendleton yard.

Walking his dogs along the Umatilla River behind his home, Jack Simons discover a species not on our Umatilla County list. His dogs flushed 3 **NORTHERN BOBWHITE** quail. Jack has no idea how they got there, but since the species is listed as extirpated on the official Oregon Checklist, they cannot be added to the Umatilla County checklist. Jack is still interested in tracking the birds to see if they survive through the winter.

October 18, Aaron, June and Duane Whitten completed the annual fall maintenance on the bluebird boxes along the Albee Bluebird Trail. Birding along the way they found 6 **Western Bluebirds** and a **Loggerhead Shrike** near Albee. About 2 miles NW of Ukiah, Aaron photographed an adult **Bald Eagle** and a large flock of **Common Ravens** that were feeding on a cow carcass. However, the bird of the day was an **adult male SURF SCOTER** at the Ukiah sewer ponds. Aaron noted that **SURF SCOTERS** are rare but annual in Umatilla County each fall. However, he has never seen an adult male in the fall, just females or immatures, so this bird was unexpected.

October 18th was a good day for adding new birds to the County Year List. On the 18th Dennis Dauble reported seeing a **WESTERN SCRUB-JAY** at the Bar M Ranch, which is located along the Umatilla River about 25 miles east of Pendleton. The bird was at a feeder along with **Steller's Jays**, squabbling over the food. With the addition of **SURF SCOTER** and **WESTERN SCRUB-JAY**, the County year list now stands at 249.

What other rare or unexpected birds will be found as we move later into the fall? Please send your bird sightings (usual as well as unusual) to me, Dave Herr, at dsherr1@mac.com or 276-6413.



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